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Strassburger et al.

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(54) **FOOTWEAR SECURITY DISPLAY HANGER**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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E05B 69/00	(2006.01)
B65D 73/00	(2006.01)
A47F 5/00	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***E05B 69/003*** (2013.01); ***A47F 5/0006*** (2013.01); ***B65D 73/0064*** (2013.01); *A47F 7/08* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 248/682, 686, 690, 692, 301, 308, 305, 248/306, 339; 211/34, 35, 38, 85.31, 211/113; 206/806, 349; 223/87, 85, 223/DIG. 1

See application file for complete search history.

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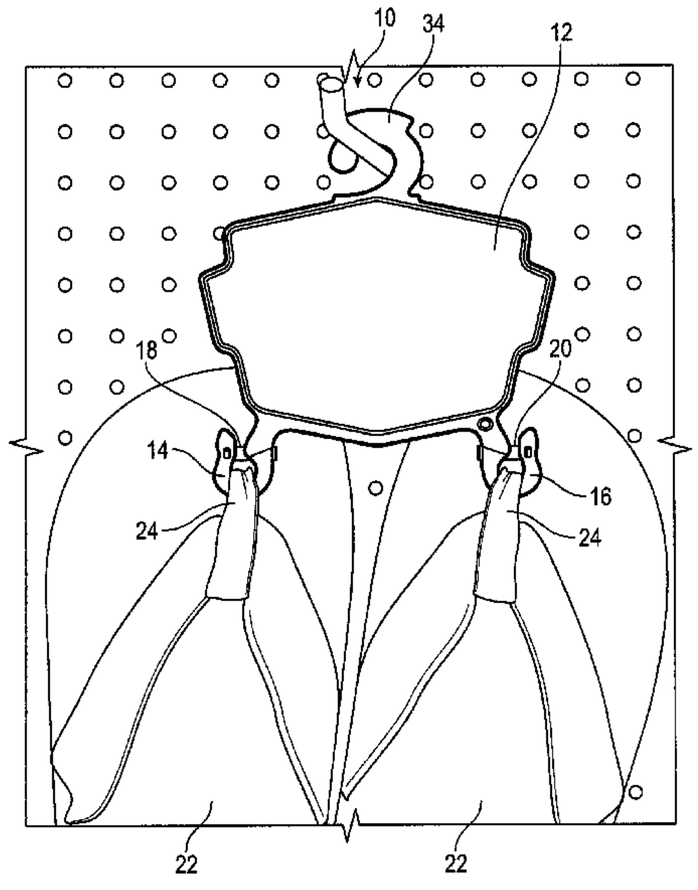
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A footwear security display hanger includes a generally flat body member, first and second hooks integrally connected to the body member, and first and second locking arms connected to the first and second hooks, respectively. The first and second hooks have a first open-ended hook cavity and a second open-ended hook cavity, respectively, for receiving a portion of footwear. The first and second locking arms are movable to overlie the first and second open-ended hook cavities and lock the first and second hooks to close the first and second open-ended hook cavities to prevent the footwear from being removed from the first and second hooks.

12 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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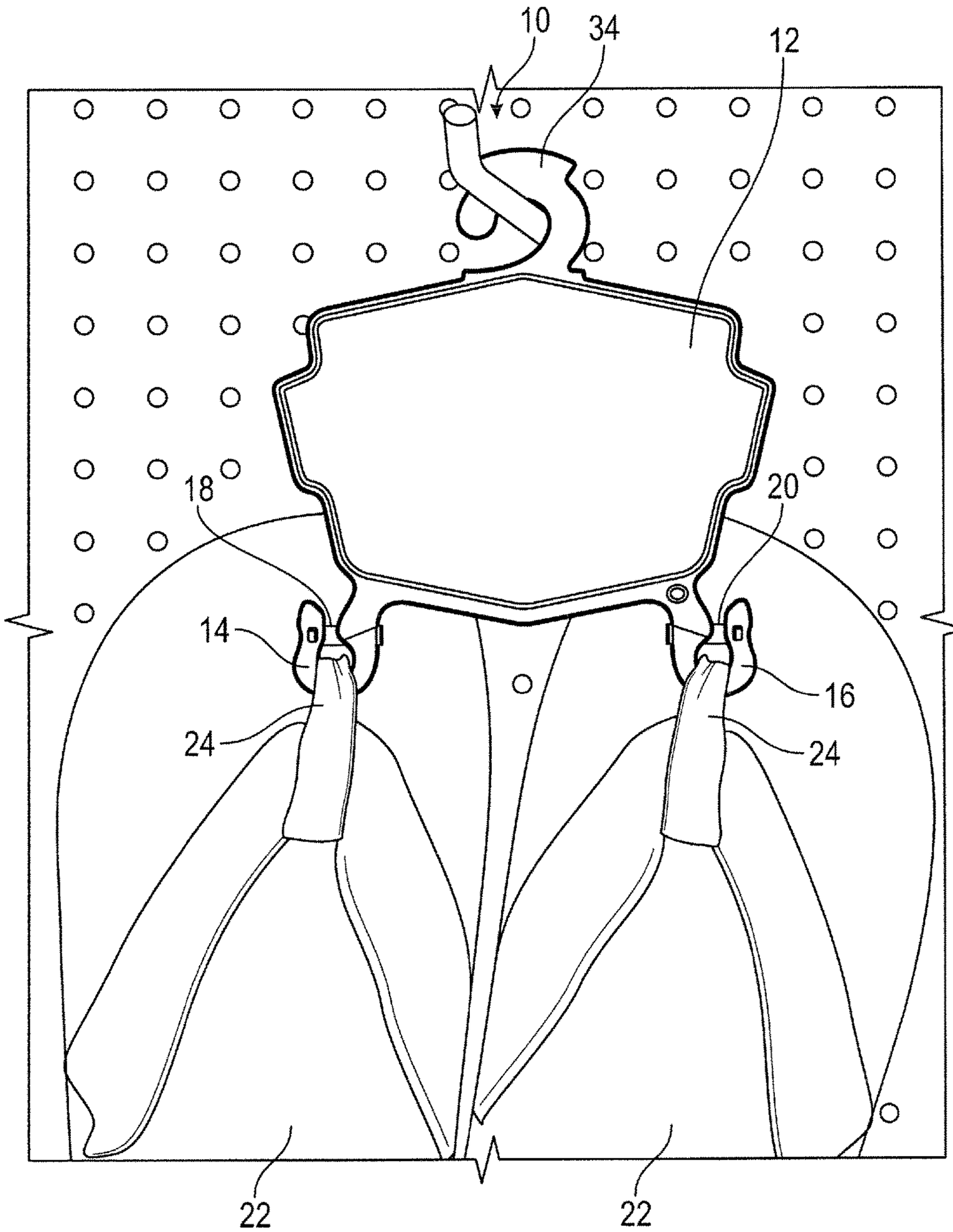

FIG. 1

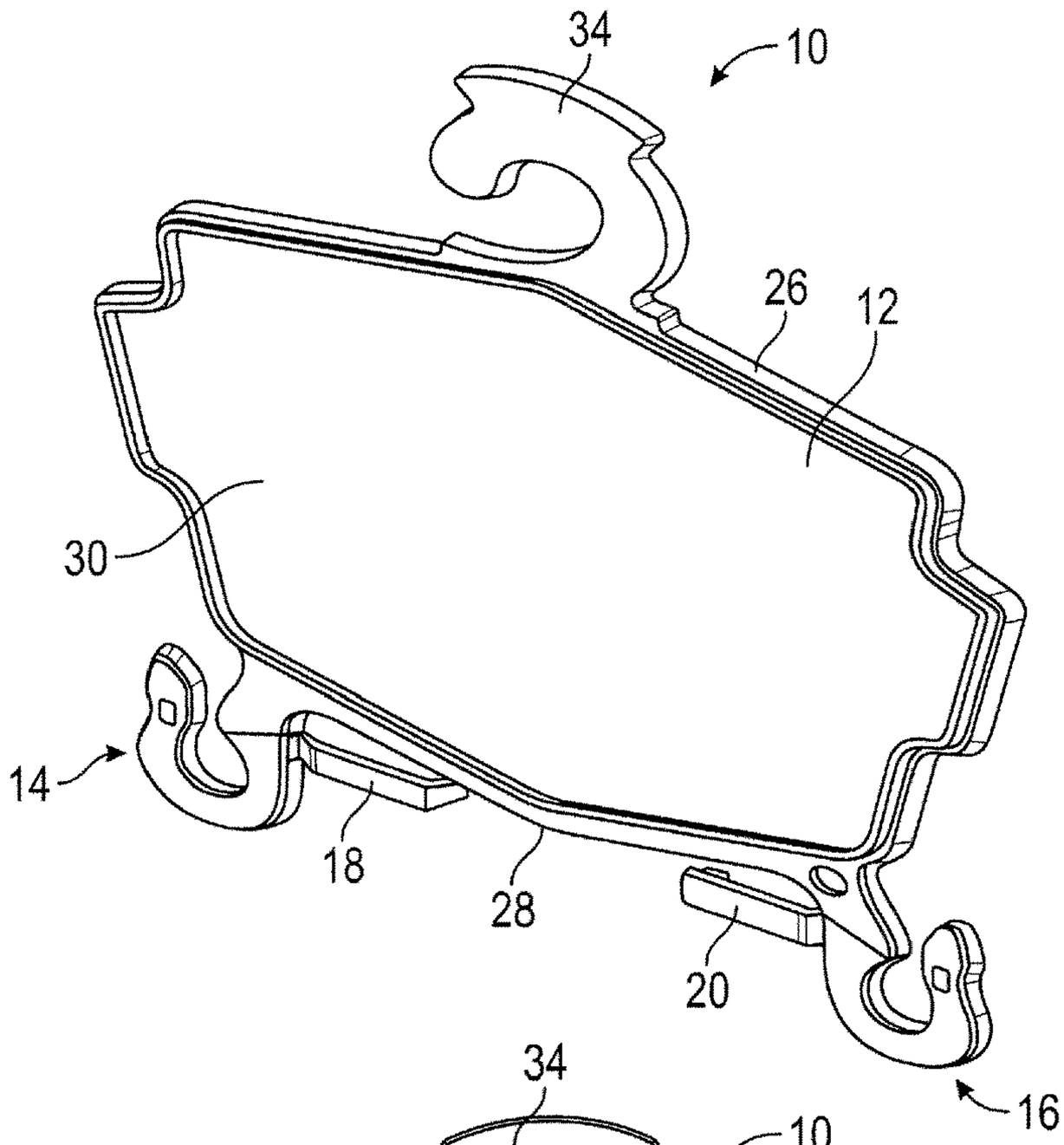
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FIG. 2

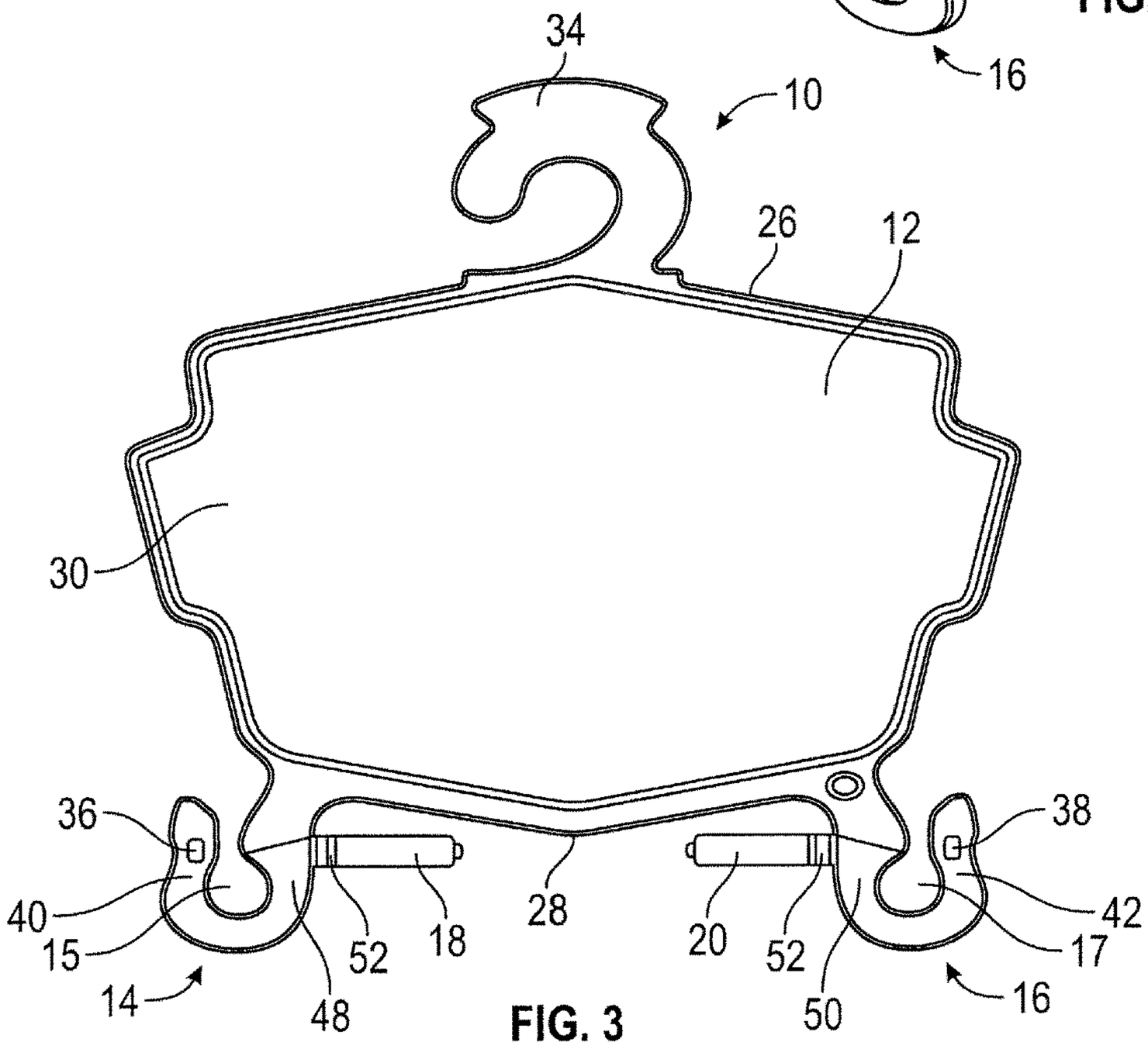
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FIG. 3

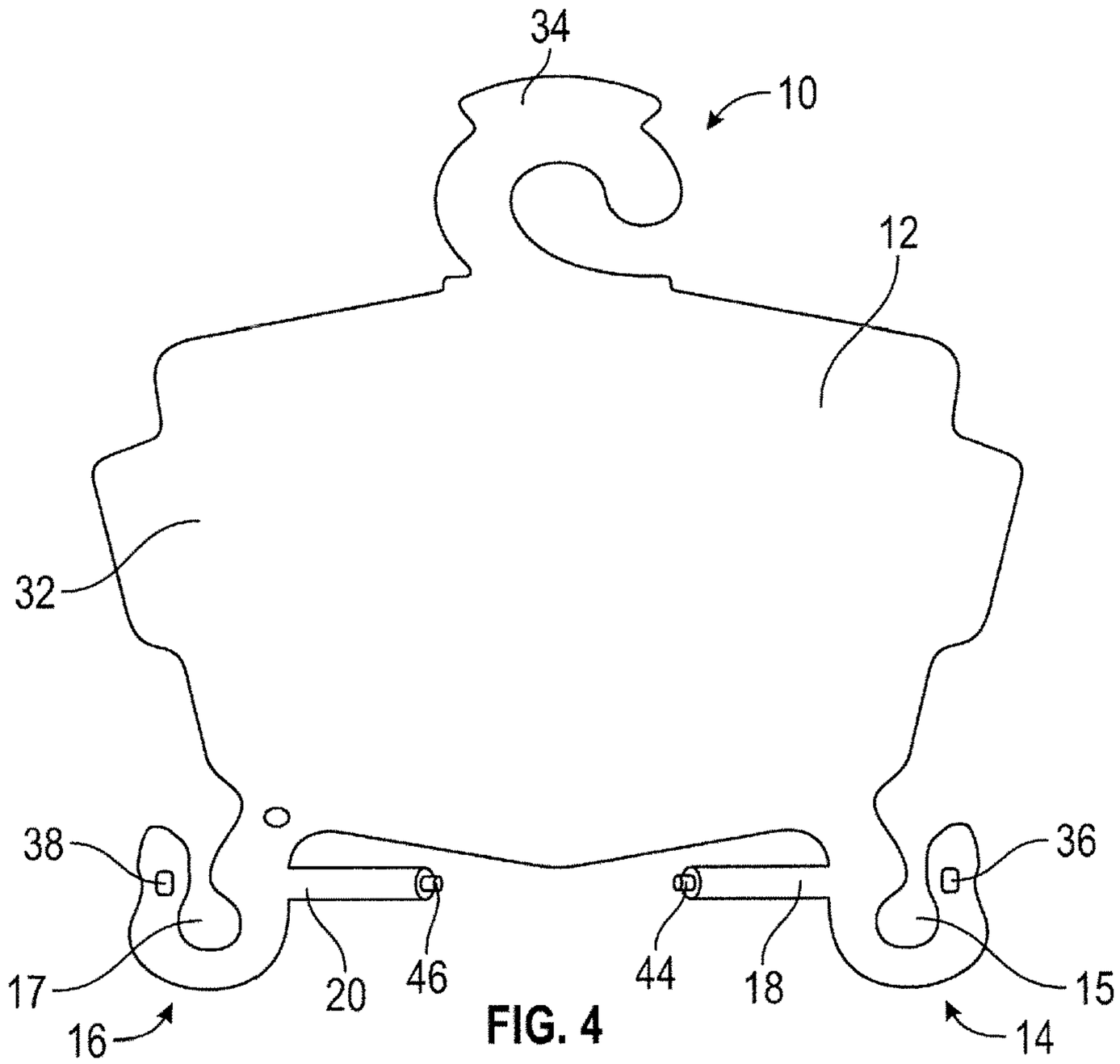

FIG. 4

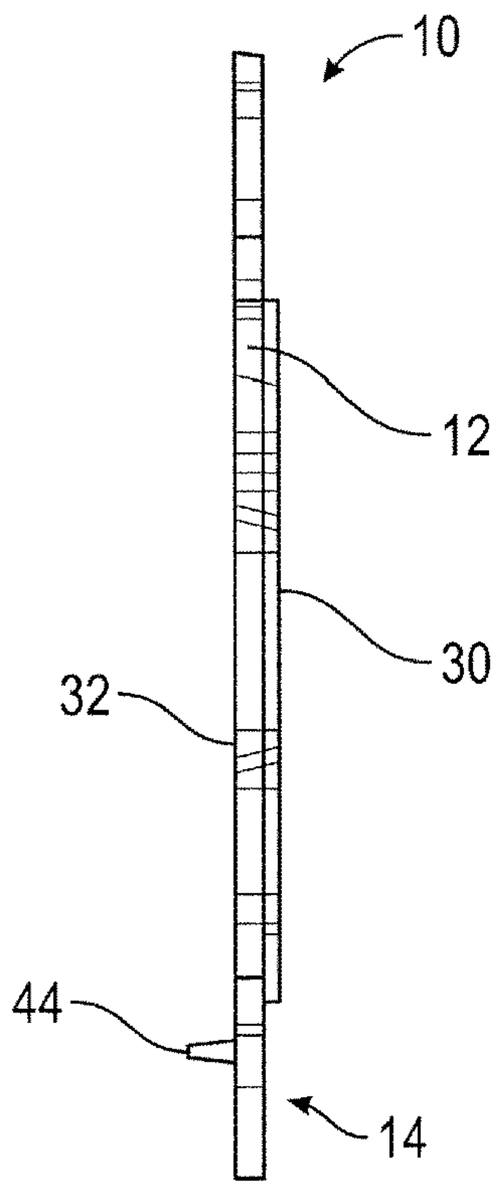

FIG. 5

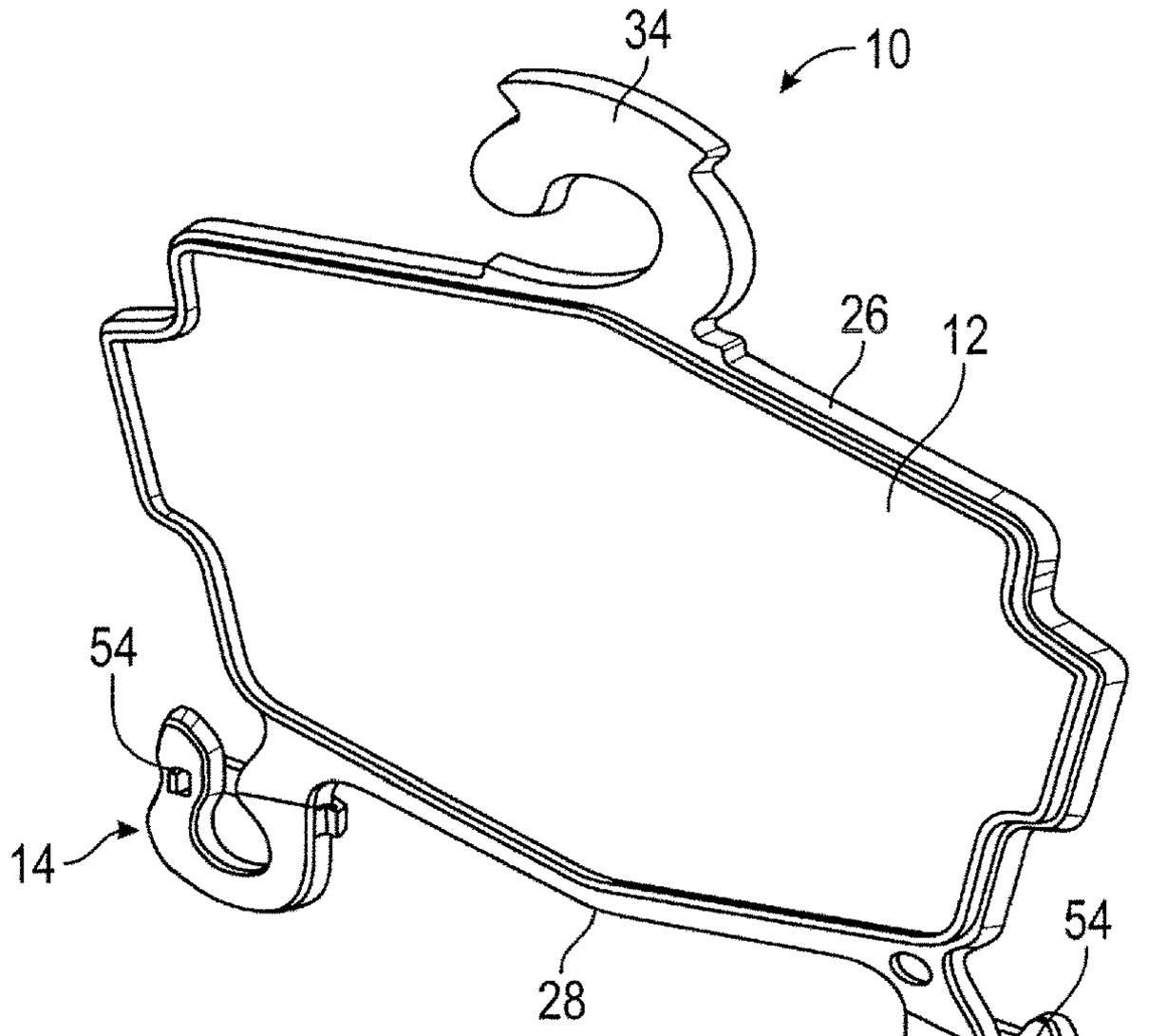
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FIG. 6

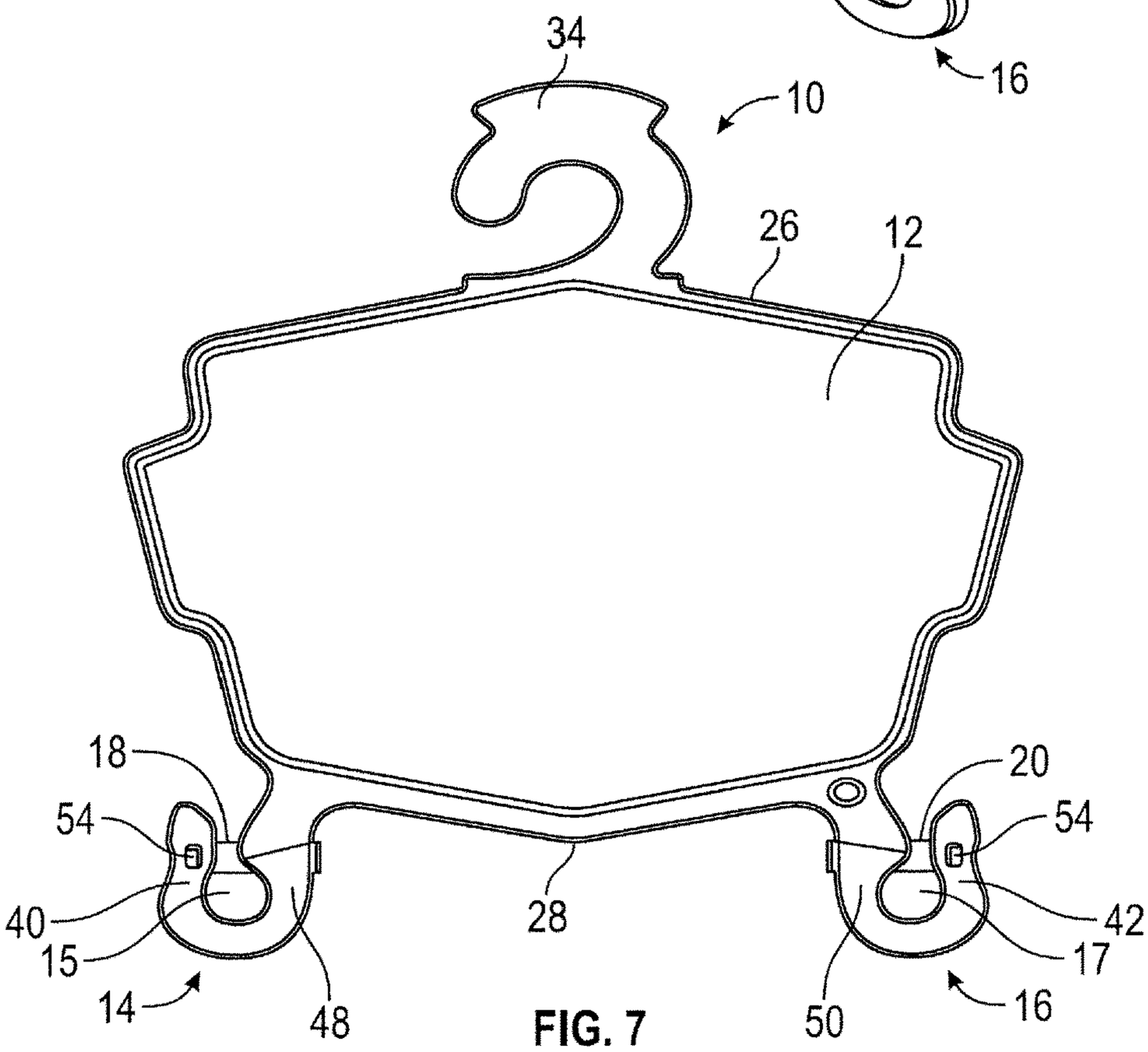
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FIG. 7

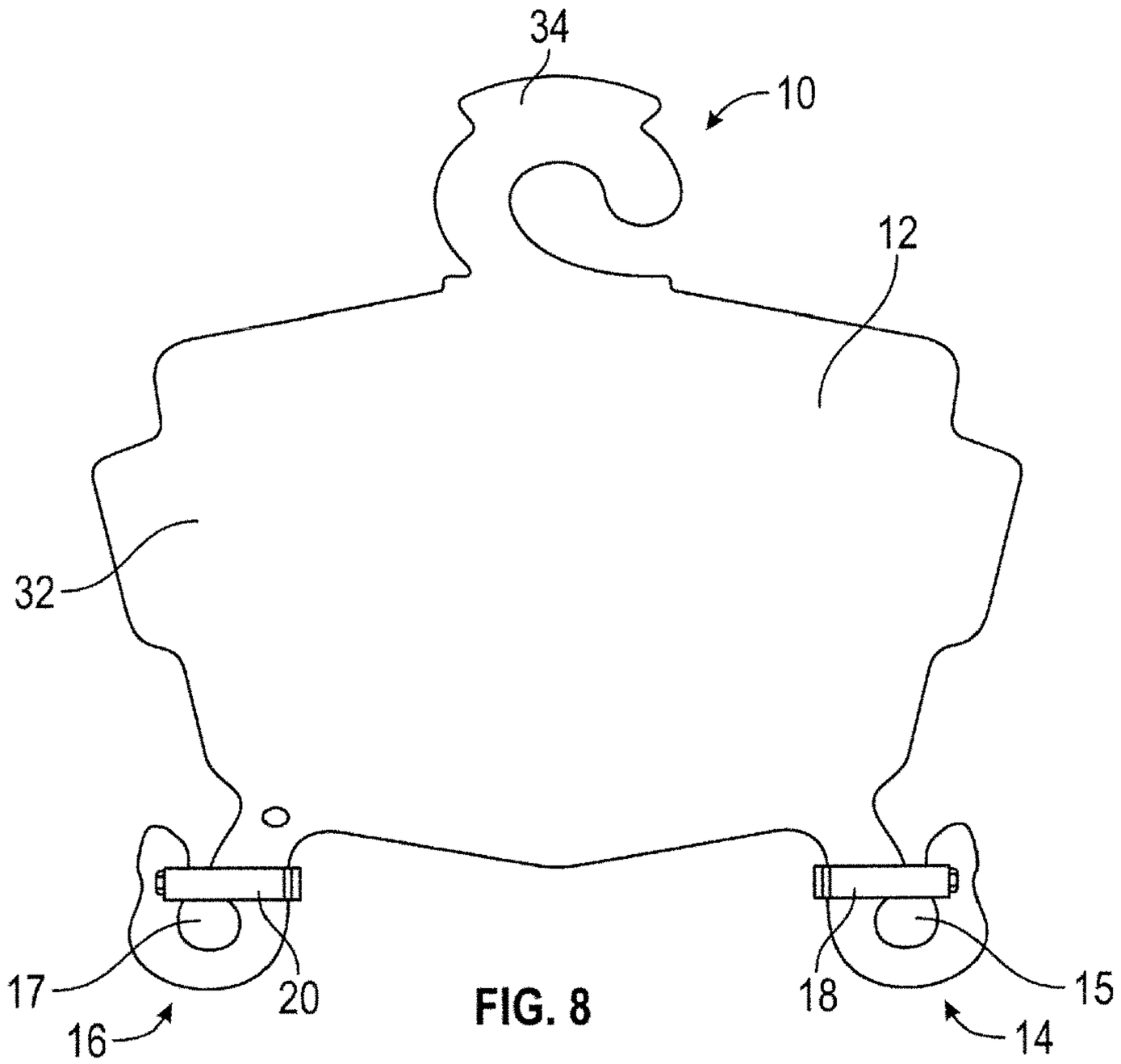

FIG. 8

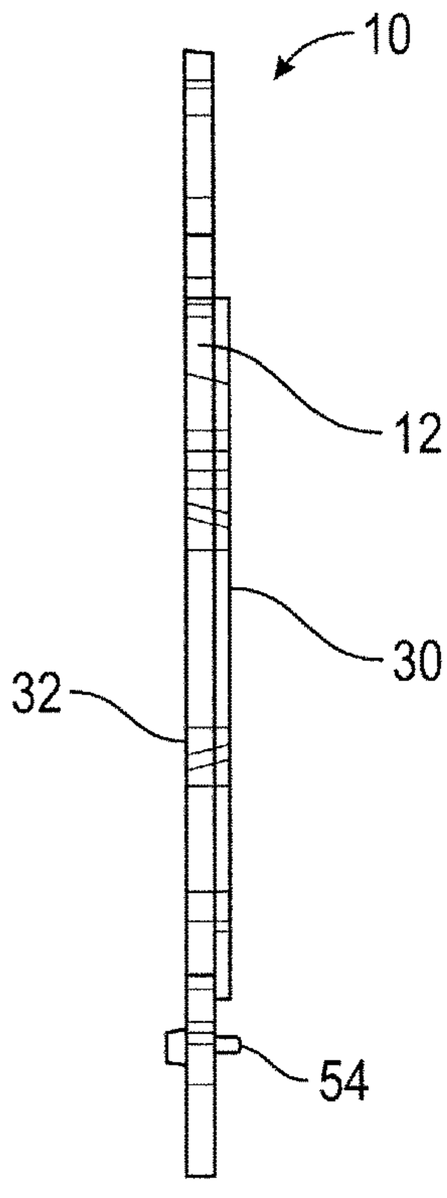

FIG. 9

FOOTWEAR SECURITY DISPLAY HANGER

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/400,771, filed on Sep. 28, 2016, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to footwear display hangers, and more particularly, to footwear security display hangers to prevent mix-up of models and sizes of footwear products.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In most retail footwear stores, thong-type footwear products such as flip-flops or sandals are commonly displayed for sale on shoe racks or hung on a hook or the like. Generally, the entire inventory of models and sizes of these footwear products are available in the showroom for customers. It is customary for the customers to try different models and sizes of their choices in the showroom. However, this presents an issue of mixing up of the footwear products since the footwear products are frequently scattered randomly on the showroom floor after the customers try them on. In addition, it is difficult to track each piece of the footwear products and can be stolen by the customers without security tags. The security tags can be enclosed in or attached to a variety of different devices, such as holder or housing, which accommodate the electronic tag and are used to attach the tags to an article. This also presents both manufacturing and assembling issues, which increase the cost and product complexity.

Accordingly, there is a need for an improved footwear security display hanger to prevent mix-up of models and sizes of footwear products and theft by consumers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a footwear security display hanger includes a generally flat body member, first and second hooks integrally connected to the body member, and first and second locking arms connected to the first and second hooks, respectively. The first and second hooks have a first open-ended hook cavity and a second open-ended hook cavity, respectively, for receiving a portion of footwear. The first and second locking arms are movable to overlie the first and second open-ended hook cavities and lock the first and second hooks to close the first and second open-ended hook cavities to prevent the footwear from being removed from the first and second hooks.

These and other aspects of the present invention will be better understood in view of the drawings and following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front view of a footwear security display hanger, according to an embodiment of the present invention, with a footwear product secured thereonto;

FIG. **2** is a perspective front view of the footwear security display hanger in an unlocked or open position;

FIG. **3** is a front view of the footwear security display hanger in FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** is a rear view of the footwear security display hanger in FIG. **2**;

FIG. **5** is a side view of the footwear security display hanger in FIG. **2**;

FIG. **6** is a perspective front view of the footwear security display hanger in FIG. **2** in a locked or closed position;

FIG. **7** is a front view of the footwear security display hanger in FIG. **6**;

FIG. **8** is a rear view of the footwear security display hanger in FIG. **6**; and

FIG. **9** is a side view of the footwear security display hanger in FIG. **6**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

According to an embodiment of the present invention, referring to FIGS. **1-9**, a footwear security display hanger **10** includes a body member **12**, first and second hooks **14**, **16**, and first and second locking arms **18**, **20**. The first and second locking arms **18**, **20** are connected to the first and second hooks **14**, **16**, respectively, and repositionable relative thereto between unlocked/open (FIGS. **2-5**) and locked/closed (FIGS. **6-9**) positions. The footwear security display hanger **10** is configured to engage and secure a variety of different footwear products **22** with a thong or a strap **24** such as flip-flops or sandals, as shown in FIG. **1**.

Referring more particularly to FIGS. **2-5**, the body member **12** is generally flat and includes a first end **26**, a second end **28**, and first and second sides **30**, **32** extending between the first and second ends **26**, **28**. A display hanger hook **34** is positioned at the first end **26** to provide a means to engage with a display hook for retail display.

Each of the first and second hooks **14**, **16** is integrally connected to the body member **12** and extends downwardly from each corresponding side portion of the second end **28** of the body member **12**. The first and second hooks **14**, **16** include a first open-ended hook cavity **15** and a second open-ended hook cavity **17**, respectively, which a portion, such as the thong **24**, of the footwear product **22** can be placed and engaged therewithin. First locking aperture **36** and second locking aperture **38** are defined at a first front hook portion **40** of the first hook **14** and a second front hook portion **42** of the second hook **16**, respectively, through which first and second locking devices **44**, **46** can be inserted, as will be described in greater details below.

The first locking arm **18** and the second locking arm **20** extend longitudinally from a first rear hook portion **48** of the first hook **14** and a second rear hook portion **50** of the second hook **16**, respectively, with each of the rear hook portions **48**, **50** integrally connected to the body member **12**. Each of the first and second locking arms **18**, **20** includes a foldline **52**, such as crease, to allow each locking arm **18**, **20** to be movable or folded along the foldline **52** to overlie the first and second open-ended hook cavities **15**, **17** and lock the first and second hooks **14**, **16** to close the open-ended hook cavities **15**, **17**. The first and second locking devices **44**, **46** are formed integrally from the first locking arm **18** and second locking arm **20**, respectively, and extend perpendicularly therefrom. The first and second locking devices **44**, **46** are designed and configured to be inserted through corresponding locking aperture **36**, **38** to provide a locking mechanism, as illustrated in FIGS. **6-9**, to prevent the footwear product **22** from being removed from the first and second hooks **14**, **16**.

Contours of the first and second locking apertures **36**, **38** and the first and second locking devices **44**, **46** are config-

ured such that, when engaged, they provide a locking mechanism, with each tip **54** of the first and second locking devices **44**, **46** protruding outwardly from each of the first and second locking apertures **36**, **38**, as shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**. Once the footwear security display hanger **10** is in the locked/closed position, it is extremely difficult to open it with bare hands to separate the footwear **22** from the footwear security display hanger **10**. In fact, the locked footwear security display hanger **10** is not readily openable without destruction of the display hanger **10**.

It is contemplated that a security tag or marker (not shown) may be applied to the first or second side **30**, **32** of the body member **12**. In addition to the security tag, the first and second sides **30**, **32** of the body member **12** provide convenient surfaces for pictures such as logos or text (including product descriptions) to be printed on, embossed in, or otherwise attached.

The security tag attached to the footwear security display hanger **10** has a wide variety of uses, including tracking, inventory control, and security. The security tag can also provide electronically readable information pertaining to the footwear product **22**. The security tag is a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag, an electronic article surveillance (EAS) device or the like. The security tag is firmly secured to the footwear security display hanger **10** such that it remains with the footwear product **22** until after the time of purchase.

The footwear security display hanger **10** is made out of one or more materials having suitable properties for a desired application, including strength, weight, rigidity, etc. Plastic is generally preferred. It will be appreciated that other designs and configurations could be used for the body member **12**, as deemed suitable for given application factors.

In use of the footwear security display hanger **10**, first, in the unlocked/open position, the footwear products **22**, such as flip-flops, are engaged with the first and second hooks **14**, **16** by inserting the thong **24** of each of the flip-flops **22** through the opening of each of the first and second hooks **14**, **16**. Then, by folding the first and second locking arms **18**, **20** along the foldlines **52** and closing and locking the first and second locking arms **18**, **20**, the footwear security display hanger **10** is ready for suspension on a display hook or the like, such as a pegboard hook for retail display. Once a consumer purchases the footwear products **22**, the consumer can remove it from the footwear security display hanger **10** by cutting along the foldlines **52** with scissors to allow the first and second locking arms **18**, **20** to be open. Alternatively, the footwear products **22** can be removed from the footwear security display hanger **10** by cutting or clipping each tip **54** of the first and second locking devices **44**, **46**.

From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that a footwear security display hanger according to the present invention may be used to prevent mix-up of footwear products, as well as for anti-theft, tracking and inventory control, while providing the design that is convenient for merchants to display their goods.

In general, the foregoing description is provided for exemplary and illustrative purposes; the present invention is not necessarily limited thereto. Rather, those skilled in the art will appreciate that additional modifications, as well as adaptations for particular circumstances, will fall within the scope of the invention as herein shown and described and of the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A footwear security display hanger comprising:

a generally flat body member having a first end, a second end, and first and second sides extending from the first and second ends;

first and second hooks integrally connected to the body member, the first and second hooks having a first open-ended hook cavity and a second open-ended hook cavity, respectively, for receiving a portion of footwear; and

first and second locking arms connected to the first and second hooks, respectively;

wherein the first and second locking arms being movable to overlie the first and second open-ended hook cavities, respectively, and lock the first and second hooks to close the first and second open-ended hook cavities to prevent the footwear from being removed from the first and second hooks,

wherein the first and second locking arms extend longitudinally from a first rear hook portion of the first hook and a second rear hook portion of the second hook, respectively, with each of the rear hook portions integrally connected to the body member.

2. The footwear security display hanger of claim **1**, wherein each of the first and second hooks extends downwardly from each corresponding side portion of the second end of the body member.

3. The footwear security display hanger of claim **1**, wherein each of the first and second locking arms includes a foldline to allow each of the first and second locking arms to be folded along the foldline to transition the footwear security display hanger between unlocked/open and locked/closed positions.

4. The footwear security display hanger of claim **1**, wherein the body member includes a display hanger hook on the first end to engage with a display hook for retail display.

5. The footwear security display hanger of claim **1**, wherein the first and second sides of the body member extend between the first end and the second end.

6. The footwear security display hanger of claim **1**, wherein the footwear security display hanger is made out of plastic.

7. The footwear security display hanger of claim **1**, further comprising a security tag, which is attached to the body member.

8. The footwear security display hanger of claim **7**, wherein the security tag is used for tracking, inventory control, and security.

9. The footwear security display hanger of claim **7**, wherein the security tag is a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag or an electronic article surveillance (EAS) device.

10. A footwear security display hanger comprising:

a generally flat body member having a first end, a second end, and first and second sides extending from the first and second ends;

first and second hooks integrally connected to the body member, the first and second hooks having a first open-ended hook cavity and a second open-ended hook cavity, respectively, for receiving a portion of footwear; and

first and second locking arms connected to the first and second hooks, respectively;

wherein the first and second locking arms being movable to overlie the first and second open-ended hook cavities, respectively, and lock the first and second hooks to close the first and second open-ended hook cavities to prevent the footwear from being removed from the first and second hooks,

wherein a first locking aperture and a second locking aperture are defined on the first hook and the second hook, respectively,

wherein a first locking device and a second locking device are formed integrally from the first and second arms, respectively, and are designed and configured to engage with the first and second locking apertures to provide a locking mechanism to prevent the footwear from being removed from the first and second hooks.

11. The footwear security display hanger of claim **10**, wherein the first and second locking apertures are defined at a first front hook portion of the first hook and a second front hook portion of the second hook, respectively, through which the first and second locking devices could be inserted.

12. A footwear security display hanger comprising:

a generally flat body member having a first end, a second end, and first and second sides extending from the first and second ends;

first and second hooks integrally connected to the body member, the first and second hooks having a first open-ended hook cavity and a second open-ended hook cavity, respectively, for receiving a portion of footwear; and

first and second locking arms connected to the first and second hooks, respectively;

wherein the first and second locking arms being movable to overlie the first and second open-ended hook cavities, respectively, and lock the first and second hooks to close the first and second open-ended hook cavities to prevent the footwear from being removed from the first and second hooks,

wherein a first locking aperture and a second locking aperture are defined on the first hook and the second hook, respectively,

wherein a first locking device and a second locking device are formed integrally from the first and second arms, respectively,

wherein contours of the first and second locking apertures and the first and second locking devices are configured such that, when engaged, they provide a locking mechanism, with each tip of the first and second locking devices protruding outwardly from each of the first and second locking apertures.

* * * * *